

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required restriction of claims 1-53 of the above-referenced application to one of the following groups of claims: claims 1-12, 28, 30-32 and 50 (Group I); claims 13-27 (Group II); claim 29 (Group III); claims 33, 34, 51 and 53 (Group IV); and claims 35-49 and 52 (Group V).

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement to the extent that Groups I through V are indicated as requiring separate prosecution.

The rationale in the Office Action for restricting claims 1-53 is based on the assertion that certain claims recite "processing of an information signal containing content," while certain other claims recite "processing a speech signal," "processing a video signal," "processing an information signal containing text-based content," and "processing an information signal containing markup language-based content."

Applicants respectfully point out that the present specification at page 2, line 21, through page 3, line 9, explains:

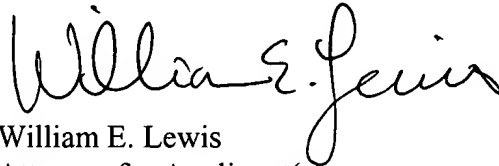
The present invention provides information signal processing methods and apparatus for substantially reducing and/or eliminating the classical UI [user interface] problem described above. . . . In one embodiment, the modality in which the content in the information signal is presented is audio or speech-based. In another embodiment, the modality is video-based. In a further embodiment, the information signal is multimodal including audio-based and video-based content. In yet other embodiments, the invention can be extended to other media (e.g., written or typed text).

Thus, it is clear that while the claimed invention broadly recites "processing an information signal with content," various other aspects of the claimed invention are associated with embodiments of information signals, e.g., speech signals, video signals, an information signal containing text-based content, an information signal containing markup language-based content, etc.

As such, Applicants believe that claims 1-53 should not be subject to restriction, and are searchable in the same search effort.

In the event the outstanding restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-12, 28, 30-32 and 50, for prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

Date: April 21, 2004

William E. Lewis
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 39,274
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-2946